

Applicant: G. Triantopoulos et al.
Application Serial No.: 10/654,638
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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A ground connector capable of being crimped, comprising:

a deformable generally U-Shaped conductive body comprising a pair of legs projecting from said body, said legs defining a central slot configured for receiving a bus bar therein;

a plurality of teeth on at least one of said legs projecting into said slot to establish an electrical connection between the bus bar and the body; and at least one aperture to receive at least one conductor therein so that when said body is deformed to initiate a partial crimp between said body and the conductor within said aperture, said central slot is slightly opened to receive the bus bar therein; and

a pair of outwardly angled cut outs at a closed end of said slot to allow the body to deform into a secure crimp connection to the bus bar.

2. (Previously Canceled)

3. (Original) The ground connector of claim 1 wherein said at least one aperture includes access openings extending through a lower surface of the body, to thereby permit deformation of the body at said aperture and a secure crimp connection of the body around said conductor.

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4. (Previously Presented) The ground connector of claim 1 wherein said aperture comprises sections of different shapes and sizes to accommodate said conductors of various ranges.
5. (Currently Amended) A ground connector capable of being crimped, comprising:
 - a deformable conductive body comprising a pair of legs projecting from said body, wherein said pair of legs are located at opposite ends of the body thereby defining a generally U-shaped configuration, and said legs defining a central slot with opposed side walls configured for receiving a bus bar therein;
 - a pair of shoulders projecting outwardly from a lower end of the body wherein said shoulders are located at said opposite ends of the body;
 - a plurality of teeth on at least one of said legs projecting into the side wall of said slot to establish an electrical connection between the bus bar and the body; and at least one aperture located adjacent one of said shoulders to receive at least one conductor therein so that when said body is deformed at said pair of shoulders to initiate a partial crimp between said body and the conductor within said aperture, said central slot is slightly opened to receive the bus bar therein
6. (Previously Amended) The ground connector of claim 1, wherein said at least one aperture extends through said body at location opposite sides of said slot.

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7. (Currently Amended) A ground connector capable of being crimped, comprising:
 - a generally U-Shaped body of deformably conductive material having a pair of open ended slots, each of said slot being defined by opposed, spaced sidewalls and a closed end; wherein one of said ~~slot~~ slots being configured to receive a respective bus bar therein and other of said slot being configured to provide an area of relief to facilitate said crimping of the connector;
 - a plurality of teeth extending on each of said side walls of said slots to establish electrical crimp connection between the respective bus bars and the body; and
 - a plurality of apertures extending through said body, wherein at least one of said apertures being on opposite side of at least one of said slots to respectively receive at least one conductor therein so that when said body is deformed to initiate a partial crimp between the body and the conductor within said at least one aperture, only one of said open ended slots is slightly opened to receive the respective bus bar therein.
8. (Original) The ground connector of claim 7 wherein at least one of said slots has a pair of outwardly angled cut outs to allow deformation of the body for crimp connection to the bus bars.
9. (Previously Presented) The ground connector of claim 7 wherein said at least one aperture includes an access opening to permit deformation of the body at said at least one aperture for crimp connection to at least one said conductor.

10 – 13 (Previously canceled)

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14. (Previously Presented) A method for crimping a connector to at least one bus bar and at least one conductor, comprising the steps of:

providing a connector including a deformable body comprising a pair of legs defining a central slot, each leg having teeth extending into the slot, said body having a pair of outwardly angled cut outs at a closed end of the slot, said cut outs allowing the body to deform into a secure crimp connection to a bus bar, and said body having at least one channel extending through said body, the channel being adapted to receive a conductor therein;

placing at least one conductor in the channel;

deforming the body to initiate a partial crimp between the body and the conductor placed in said channel thereby causing said central slot to be slightly opened;

inserting the bus bar into said slightly opened central slot of the body after the conductor is partially crimped;

continuing to deform the conductor until the conductor is tightly crimped within the channel in the body and said bus bar is crimped between the legs.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the crimp connection is initiated by a crimping tool.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the crimping tool includes a pair of spaced apart dies.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further including the steps of:
placing the body of the connector between the pair of spaced apart dies; and
moving the dies towards opposite ends of the body to deform the connector
therebetween.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for crimping a connector to at least one bus bar and at least one conductor, comprising the steps of:
providing a connector including a deformable body comprising a pair of legs defining a central slot with opposed side walls, said legs located at opposite ends of the body thereby defining a generally U-shaped configuration, each leg having teeth extending into the side walls of the slot, said body including a pair of shoulders projecting outwardly from a lower end of the body, the shoulders located at said opposite ends of the body.

 said body having at least one channel adjacent to one of the shoulders extending through said body, the channel being adapted to receive the conductor therein;
 placing at least one conductor in the channel;

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deforming the body at said pair of shoulders to initiate a partial crimp between the body and the conductor placed in said channel thereby causing said central slot to be slightly opened;

inserting a bus bar into said slightly opened central slot of the body after the conductor is partially crimped;

continuing to deform the conductor until the conductor is tightly crimped within the channel in the body and said bus bar is crimped between the legs.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the crimp connection is initiated by a crimping tool, said crimping tool including a pair of spaced apart dies.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further including the steps of:
placing the body of the connector between the pair of spaced apart dies; and
moving the dies towards opposite ends of the body to deform the connector therebetween.